



MathScience Innovation Center
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165 Students Pumped to Participate in Governor's School for Middle School Gifted

Nominated by their school divisions, 165 Central Virginia students spent two weeks (June 29-July 9, 2009) at the MathScience Innovation Center exploring the exciting worlds of math, science and computer technology. All classes met for 8 days. The Virginia Department of Education and the MathScience Innovation Center support this annual program for students identified as gifted who are rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Sixth graders chose between three courses: *Building Beyond Earth*, *RoboQuest*, or *CSI: Student Academy*. Seventh and eighth graders chose between *Seeing Is Being: Virtual Worlds*, *Fractals: Where Math, Art and Science Meet*, or *From the Ground Up*.

"The purpose for this program is to provide our gifted middle school students with learning experiences that actively encourage the development of critical thinking skills, creativity, social skills, and an understanding of cutting edge concepts in math and science" says Daphne Schmidt, Assistant Coordinator of Saturday and Summer Student Programs. Much fun and learning was had by all as the students explored nanotechnology, forensics, virtual modeling, green architectural design, robotics, and the nature of fractal geometry. As one parent wrote, "My child impressed me with the amount of information she could share each evening and her level of excitement reflected her great experiences."

Connor Wood of Henrico County said "the teachers were excellent, the PowerPoint's given to us were quite clear and concise, and the field trips were kicking." Matthew King expressed similar enthusiasm. "I really liked being able to use expensive programs such as *Macromedia Fireworks*, *Flash*, and *Dreamweaver*, as well as *MoJoWorld* for free. I also liked the introduction to free software such as *Jodix iPod Converter* and *Terragen*. The contests inspired me to do my best."

Kimberly Miller of Hanover County commented that "it was fun and challenging at the same time." And Nikki Glowatsky of Chesterfield County echoed those thoughts. "I learned a new program almost every day and the *Flash* contests were fun. It challenged me and I knew I'd have to work hard to do well. Overall, I loved it and would like to take this class again next year."

Participating students included **3 students were from Caroline County Public Schools:** Andrea Gayle, Hodan Seager, and Hiba Seager (Caroline Middle School); **1 from Goochland County Public Schools:** Frieda Turner (Goochland Middle School); **6 from Hopewell Public Schools:** Luke Butterworth, Ann Eliades, Sarah Neal, Alice Santos, Madison Van Worth, Hoyle Wang (all from Carter G. Woodson Middle School); **2 from New Kent Public Schools:** William Drumheller and Sean Sullivan (New Kent Middle School); **3 from Petersburg Public Schools:** Kandace Kimber (Peabody Middle School) and Andrika Crawley and Davonta Neal (Vernon

Johns Middle School); **1 from Richmond Public Schools:** Benjamin Youngstone (Binford Middle School); **2 from Prince George County Public Schools:** Terrell Grant and Paul Redding (J.E.J. Moore Middle School); **46 from Chesterfield County Public Schools:** J. Omary Branch and Samantha Porter (Bailey Bridge Middle School); Brooke Nerahood (Carver Middle School); Ted Stanton (Chester Middle School); Kaila Hill, Leah Horton, Bin Huang, Sierra Johnson, Gonzalo Ortega, Brittany Seward (all from Falling Creek Middle School); Erika Chu, Jackson Empey, Christine Gao, Ian Lickers, Dhruv Sethi, and Bassit Soorani (all from Manchester Middle School); Jacob Getzler and Courtney Siffert (Matoaca Middle School); Logan Carlyle, Eva Katsaros, Liam Kennedy, Andrew Setaro, and Alan Zhang (Midlothian Middle School); Richie Cole (Providence Middle School); Christopher Benos, Caroline Henry, Collin Love and T. Nathaniel Tombes (Robious Middle School); Lianne Copertino (Salem Church Middle School); Diane Hwang, Hayley Livingston and David Poindexter (Swift Creek Middle School); Lindsey Blum, Courtney Cauthorn, K. Patrick Connolly, Nicole Glowatsky, , Anna Jemi-Alade, Maxwell Johnson, Sam Leeper, Ali Lehr, Campbell Raley, Morgan Reid, Cyan Sada, Malcolm Stewart, Shayne Stoots, and Ryunosuke Yano (Tomahawk Middle School); **5 from Colonial Heights:** Adeola Adesuyi, Maryam Ansari, Kayla Boyd, Megan Brenes-Guallar, Kelly Spaine (Colonial Heights Middle School); **26 from Hanover County Public Schools:** Bennett Bowers, Anna- Louise Cecil, Nirali Jantrania, Hayley Martin, Kimberly Miller, Nicolas Oanca, Matthew Perry, C. Cole Sims, Jordan Williams, Johnny Willing, Jasmine Zollar (all from Chickahominy Middle School); Jacob Davis, Linda Felgenhauer, Leah Goggin, Lauren Jones, Maddie Miles, Jackson Prillaman, Olivia Prillaman (all from Liberty Middle School); Brady Anthony-Brumfield, Kristen Dennis and Logan Ziegler (Oak Knoll Middle School); and Robbie Crawford, Sam Hanny, Chelsea Matthews, Michael Pemberton, and Bonny Turnage (all from Stonewall Jackson Middle School); **49 from Henrico County Public Schools:** Shruti Rao (Brookland Middle School); Navia Higgins, Mary Kate Montgomery, Sadie Pope, Douglas Robb, Kristie Turkal, Chris Williams, and Will York (Byrd Middle School); Bailey Moore and F. Cole Walden (Elko Middle School); Chandrika Dandamudi (Hungary Creek Middle School); Natalia Bell, Madeline Blankenship, Peter Brodzik, Brandon Buncher, Kaivalya Dandamudi, Sayantane Das, Shashi Gowda, Sailasya Gundlapudi, Reyna Huang, Camille Karabaich, Matthew King, Austin Koch, Mavra Masood, Agustey Mongia, Serena Ngoh, Divij Rajesh, Krishna Ravindra, Maya Ravindran, Sneha Reddy, Srishti Sanya, Sean Sequeira, Isabelle Stern, Madison Tang, Brandon Towner, Rajiv Tummala, Caroline Turkanis, Catesby Wolski, Connor Wood, and Alexa Ytterberg (all from Moody Middle School); Gregory Akerman, Marina Gibson, Sheila Huynh, Katherine Wood and Michael Wu (all from Pocahontas Middle School); Kennedy Goldsborough (Rolfe Middle School); Ashima Chadha, and Julianna Keeling (Short Pump Middle School), and Matthew Heinicke-Peart (Tuckahoe Middle School); **and 21 from area private schools:** Richard Bailey (Richmond Montessori); Margaret Graham, Nora Petree and Virginia Slattum (Luther Memorial); Nicole Felmus and Elizabeth Wolfe (Orchard House); David Cisik, Casey Lawson, Rafael Magnant and Samia McEachin (Our Lady of Lourdes); Annie Weinberg (Rudlin Torah); Stephen Davis (St. Bridget's School); and Camille Boler (St. Catherine's School).

About the MathScience Innovation Center: The MathScience Innovation Center is proud to be the leader of K-12 math and science education for the eight Central Virginia school divisions within our forty-three year old Consortium (Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Hanover, Henrico, King William, Petersburg, Powhatan and Richmond Public Schools) and the capacity building workforce program for K-12 educators and students that provides expanded opportunities to learn about emerging fields (fractal geometry, engineering, nanotechnology, environmental modeling) and effective ways to integrate within the curriculum.